Proposal to review the Forest Conservation Act, 1980

507. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to review the Forest Conservation Act of 1980; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Wildlife crime

508. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that India has become a favourite hunting ground for increasingly organized wildlife crime networks; and

(b) whether it is fact that in July 2004, 10 tiger skins, 25 leopard skins, four sackfuls of fresh tiger bones and claws of 31 tigers and leopards were seized from 11 different States across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) There are indications about the involvement of organized gangs in the wildlife crimes in India.

(b) The Central Government has information only about the seizure of 5 skins of tigers, 8 skins of leopards and 540 claws of tigers and leopards during July 2004 in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh.

Extinction of endangered wildlife

509. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tigers and other endangered wildlife have either become extinct or fast becoming extinct even from the reserved forest areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof with number of tigers, lions and other rare wildlife in different reserved forest areas during the last three years, year-wise and area-wise; and

(c) the measures contemplated to further protect these endangered animals, with allocations made for the purpose and spent thereon during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No such report has come to light from the State Governments; however media has published certain such reports.

(b) The latest available State-Wise details of estimation of wild animals is at Statement-I (*See* below)

The following steps are taken to protect wild animals:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including tigers against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure to provide effective protection to wild animals.

(iii) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(iv) The Ministry of Home Affairs has addressed all State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(v) A National Wildlife Action Plan (2002—2016) has been launched with several action points and priority projects for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.

The allocation made for wildlife conservation and funds released to states for wildlife conservation through the Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the last three years is at Statement-II.

Statement-I

Population census of important wild animals State-wise details

Sl. No.	Name of State	Tiger	Leopard	Asiatic Lions	Elephant
		2001-02**	2001-02	2001	2002*
1	Andhra Pradesh	192	505	Nil	74
2	Arunachal Pradesh	61	NR	Nil	1607
3	Assam	354	248	Nil	5246
4	Bihar/Jharkhand	110	164	Nil	772
5	Goa/Daman&Diu	5	41	Nil	Nil
6	Gujarat	Nil	999	327	Nil
7	Haryana	Nil	NR	Nil	Nil
8	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	NR	Nil	Nil
9	J&K	Nil	7	Nil	
10	Karnataka	401	NR	Nil	5838
11	Kerala	71	NR	Nil	3850
12	M.P. Chhattisgarh	937	2206	Nil	Nil
13	Maharashtra	238	513	Nil	Nil
14	Manipur	Nil	NR	Nil	12
15	Meghalaya	47	NR	Nil	1868
16	Mizoram	28	NR	Nil	33
17	Nagaland	23	42	Nil	145
18	Orissa	173	457	Nil	1841
19	Rajasthan	58	481	Nil	Nil
20	Sikkim	Nil	NR	Nil	Nil
21	Tamil Nadu	60	41	Nil	3052
22	Tripura	Nil	NR	Nil	40
23	UP/Uttaranchal	535	2168	Nil	1667
24	West Bengal	349	331	Nil	328
25	Dadar Nagar Haveli	Nil	NR	Nil	Nil
26	Andaman & Nicobar	Nil	NR	Nil	40
	TOTAL:	3642	8203	327	26413

*Figures for elephant have been adopted by the Steering Committee of Project Elephant in its meeting in December 2003.

**Under compilation/vetting.

Statement-II

Scheme-wise detail on allocation of fund and releases during 2001-02 to 2003-04

(Amount Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	Funds Allocated			Funds Released		
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	Project Tiger	1948	2880	3155.90	1948.255	2879.895	3067.2105
2	Eco-development	1966	-	-	1966.07	-	-
3.	Beneficiary Oriented Tribal Development	400	-	-	400	-	-
4.	India Eco-development Project	4452.00	4500.00	2800.00	4192.00	3660.00	1442.00
5.	Project Elephant	833.00	980.00	1285.00	832.488	939.00	1285.09
6.	Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries	2450.00	3694.00	4335.00	2353.918	3694.00	4318.7421

Sanctuary land to forest dwellers

510. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to hand over vast tracts of sanctuary land to long time residents of forests;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted to grant such rights;

(c) whether any limit would be there on the extent of land which would be handed over to any one individual;

(d) the details of the plans of Government to hand over sanctuary land to forest dwellers; and

(e) the time schedule to implement this new policy?